

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KATHMA 00196 061138Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 HA-05 SS-15 SP-02 IO-13
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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 635

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 0196

STADIS//////////

FOR NEA ACTING DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LANDE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, NP
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS IN NEPAL

REF: STATE 002359

1. CHANGES SUGGESTED REFTEL MEET OUR REQUIREMENTS AND WE
MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS. ONLY FURTHER CHANGE WE WOULD

LIKE TO SEE IN UNCLASSIFIED VERSION IS THAT WHICH WE SUGGESTED
IN PARA 2 OF KATHMANDU 5621. PRIME MINISTER BISTA HAS SAID
PUBLICLY THAT HENCEFORTH ONLY PERSONS CHARGED WITH SPECIFIC
CRIMINAL OFFENSES WILL BE KEPT IN JAIL, AND THE STATEMENT
IN YOUR PROPOSED DRAFT OF PARA 1(C) THAT "THE GOVERNMENT OF
NEPAL, MOREOVER, HAS INDICATED THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO DETAIN
PERSONS WHO VIOLATE ITSGROUND RULES FOR ACCEPTABLE POLITICAL
ACTIVITY" IS SOMEWHAT AT VARIANCE WITH BISTA'S STATEMENT. AS
FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE FROM SOURCES WE CONSIDER RELIABLE ON
THIS MATTER, MAXIMUM OF 12 PERSONS (AND PROBABLY LESS) ARE BEING

HELD UNDER THE PUBLIC SECURITY ACT AT THE MOMENT. WE
ARE THEREFORE NOT ACCEPTING BISTA'S STATEMENT AT
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FACE VALUE (ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT MOST
PERSONS PREVIOUSLY HELD WITHOUT CHARGES HAVE EITHER BEEN
RELEASED OR HAVE HAD CHARGES LODGED AGAINST THEM),
BUT AT THE SAME TIME QUESTION THE WISDOM OF IN EFFECT
DISPUTING IT IN THE UNCLASSIFIED VERSION. WE
THEREFORE SUGGESTED IN PARA 2 OF KATHMANDU 5621 THAT THE
SENTENCE BE DELETED, WHILE NOTING IN OUR PROPOSED REDRAFT

OF THE LAST SENTENCE THAT A SMALL NUMBER OF PEOPLE DO IN FACT
CONTINUE TO BE HELD UNDER THE SECURITY ACT.

2. IN THE CLASSIFIED VERSION, THE ONLY FURTHER CHANGE WE
WOULD SUGGEST, BEYOND THOSE WE SUGGESTED IN PARA 3 KATHMANDU
5621 AND OTHER CHANGES YOU HAVE INDICATED REFTEL, IS
IN B2 AT THE BOTTOM OF PAGE 4 OF THE CLASSIFIED DRAFT. WE
ASSUME THE ALLUSION TO A PETITION FOR "THE RELEASE OF ANOTHER
PROMINENT POLITICIAN" REFERS TO GANESH MAN SINGH. IF SO,
WE RECOMMEND THAT THE WORDS "THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PETITION BY

THE NEPALESE SUPREME COURT FOR THE RELEASE OF ANOTHER
PROMINENT POLITICIAN" BE DELETED (AS THE PETITION WAS REJECTED
AND HE WAS NOT RELEASED) AND REPLACED BY REFERENCE TO THE
MORE MEANINGFUL ACTION OF "THE LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS ON PRE-
VIOUSLY-BANNED NEWSPAPERS". ALSO, IN THE INTERESTS OF
ACCURACY, AT THE TOP OF PAGE 5, THE WORDS "ALL OTHER"
SHOULD BE REPLACED WITH "MOST" BECAUSE, AS NOTED ABOVE,
A FEW PERSONS CONTINUE TO BE DETAINED UNDER THE
SECURITY ACT.
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